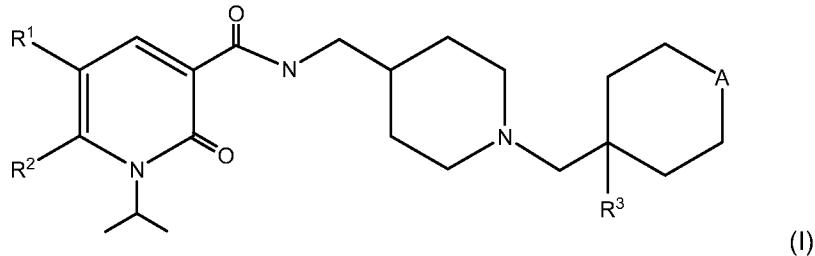


IN THE CLAIMS

1-11. (canceled)

12. (NEW) A compound of the formula (I):



wherein

R¹ is alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons or halogen;

R² is alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons;

R³ is hydrogen or hydroxy;

A is oxygen or -C(R⁴)(R⁵)-;

R⁴ is alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons or hydrogen; and

R⁵ is alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons or hydroxy;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (NEW) The compound of claim 12, wherein R¹ is halogen.

14. (NEW) The compound of claim 12, wherein R² is alkyl having 1 to 2 carbons.

15. (NEW) The compound of claim 13, wherein R² is alkyl having 1 to 2 carbons.

16. (NEW) The compound of claim 12, wherein R³ is hydroxy.

17. (NEW) The compound of claim 13, wherein R³ is hydroxy.

18. (NEW) The compound of claim 15, wherein R³ is hydroxy.

19. (NEW) The compound of claim 12, wherein A is oxygen.

20. (NEW) The compound of claim 13, wherein A is oxygen.

21. (NEW) The compound of claim 18, wherein A is oxygen.

22. (NEW) A compound selected from:

5-chloro-*N*-(*1*-[(4-hydroxytetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]piperidin-4-yl)methyl)-1-isopropyl-6-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carboxamide;

5-chloro-6-ethyl-*N*-(*1*-[(4-hydroxytetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]piperidin-4-yl)methyl)-1-isopropyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carboxamide;

N-(*1*-[(4-hydroxytetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]piperidin-4-yl)methyl)-1-isopropyl-5,6-dimethyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carboxamide;

5-bromo-*N*-(*1*-[(4-hydroxytetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]piperidin-4-yl)methyl)-1-isopropyl-6-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carboxamide;

5-fluoro-*H*-(*1*-[(4-hydroxytetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]piperidin-4-yl)methyl)-1-isopropyl-6-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carboxamide;

5-chloro-*N*-(*1*-(cyclohexylmethyl)piperidin-4-yl)methyl)-1-isopropyl-6-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carboxamide; or

5-chloro-*N*-(*1*-[(1-hydroxycyclohexyl)methyl]piperidin-4-yl)methyl)-1-isopropyl-6-methyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carboxamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. (NEW) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 12 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. (NEW) A method for treating a condition mediated by 5-HT₄ receptor agonist activity, in a mammalian subject comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 12 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (NEW) A method for treating gastroesophageal reflux disease, gastrointestinal disease, gastric motility disorder, non-ulcer dyspepsia, functional dyspepsia, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), constipation, dyspepsia, esophagitis, gastroesophageal disease, nausea, central nervous system disease, Alzheimer's disease, cognitive disorder, emesis, migraine, neurological disease, pain, diabetes, apnea syndrome, cardiac failure, or heart arrhythmia comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 12 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

26. (NEW) A method for treating gastroesophageal reflux disease comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 12 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.